

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

A Replacement Sheet is attached which includes a clean version of amended FIG. 4. The attached sheet replaces the prior sheet filed as FIG. 4.

An Annotated Sheet Showing Changes is also attached which includes a marked-up version of FIG. 4, substituting "Q" for " θ " as requested by the Examiner.

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

The pending office action addresses claims 1-15 and 21-45. Claims 1-15 and 33-36 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 21-32 and 37-45 stand rejected. By this response, Applicants have amended claims 21, 25, 37 and 41; and canceled claims 28 and 29, as well as withdrawn claims 1-15 and 33-36. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 21-27, 30-32, and 37-45 will remain pending in the application.

Election/Restrictions

The Examiner has found that claims 1-15 and 33-36 are withdrawn pursuant to the election made in the response to restriction requirement. In particular, the Examiner states:

Claims 1-15 and 33-36 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on 25 April 2006. From the specification, it is clear that the second group can have one or more blades. It is also clear from the specification that a group may contain a single blade. Applicant elected species A, which contains a second group with a single blade. Claim 1 discloses the limitation: a second group of blades. The only second group that features more than one blade is non-elected species B or Figure 6.

Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's analysis, in particular that the "second group of blades" could not, as defined by Applicant, include a single blade; however, in the interest of advancing prosecution of this application, Applicant cancels these claims without prejudice.

Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because:

In Figure 4, item " θ ". On page 19 line 24 of the specification, it is believe angle Q is referring to θ . To correct this matter, replace θ with a Q in the Figures or replace Q with a θ in the specification.

Applicant herewith corrects the inconsistency by submitting a Replacement Sheet for Figure 4 substituting "Q" for " θ " as requested.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to Claims 21 and 25. Specifically, the Examiner states:

In regards to lines 1-3 of claim 21, the phrase "A razor cartridge for use with a handle for providing both broad area shaving and trim shaving blade groups within a single cartridge, comprising: a razor cartridge defining a handle axis..." should be replaced with "A single razor cartridge for use with a handle for providing both broad area shaving and trim shaving blade groups within said single cartridge, comprising: said razor cartridge defining a handle axis...". All occurrences of the term "cartridge" are referencing the same exact structure.

In regards to claim 25, line 1, the phrase "a handle" should be replaced with "said handle". The handle limitation is previously recited in the preamble of claim 21. Appropriate correction is required.

In regards to lines 2-4 of claims 37 and 41, the phrase "...within a single cartridge, comprising:...a razor cartridge disposed on the handle..." should be replaced with "...within a single razor cartridge, comprising:... said razor cartridge disposed on the handle...".

Applicant submits that the claims were sufficiently clear as submitted; however, in an effort to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicant makes the suggested amendments herein, though using "the" as is used throughout these claims rather than "said."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102

The Examiner has rejected claims 21-32 and 37-45 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Rozenkranc (U.S. 6,276,061). Specifically, the Examiner states:

Claims 21-32

Claim 21:

In regards to claim 21, Rozenkranc discloses the same invention including a razor cartridge (2) for use with a handle (1), the razor cartridge defines a handle axis (Fig. 2), a first blade group provided on the razor cartridge and having a plurality of blades configured to provide a broad area shaving in a first working plane (3), the first working plane intersects the handle axis (Fig. 2). A second blade group provided on the razor

cartridge and having at least one razor blade configured to provide trim shaving in a second work plane (4), the second working plane intersects the handle axis (Fig. 2), and the first and second working planes intersect each other so as to define a line of intersection that is substantially transverse to the handle axis (Fig. 2).

Claim 22:

In regards to claim 22, Rozenkranc discloses the blades in the first group are parallel to each other (3).

Claim 23:

In regards to claim 23, Rozenkranc discloses the blades in the first blade group are provided at an acute angle to the first working plane in a direction of intended shaving (Fig. 1).

Claim 24:

In regards to claim 24, Rozenkranc discloses the line of intersection is orthogonal to the handle axis (Fig. 2).

Claim 25:

In regards to claim 25, Rozenkranc discloses the handle is attached to the razor cartridge (1) and at least a portion of the handle extending along the handle axis (1).

Claim 26:

In regards to claim 26, Rozenkranc discloses the first and second working planes are configured to allow conversion by a user from broad area shaving to trim shaving by rotating the handle 180° about the handle axis (Figs. 2a and 3a).

Claim 27:

In regards to claim 27, Rozenkranc discloses wherein at least a portion of the handle is symmetric to facilitate handling of the handle for either broad area shaving or trim shaving (Figs. 2 and 3).

Claims 28-29:

In regards to claims 28 and 29, Rozenkranc discloses the first and second working planes intersect at an angle between about 75° and 135° (Column 1 lines 59-63).

Claim 30:

In regards to claim 30, Rozenkranc discloses the handle is elongated and has a curve at an end attached to the razor cartridge (1) and the curve being concave on the same side as the first blade group (Fig. 2).

Claims 31-32:

In regards to claims 31 and 32, Rozenkranc discloses the secondary blade group has a leading-edge blade guard having a thin profile to allow a distance between the cutting blade and the skin (Fig. 1, portion in front of leading edge of 4 with triangle notch) and the secondary blade group has a single razor blade (4).

Claim 21 – Angle Between the Working Planes

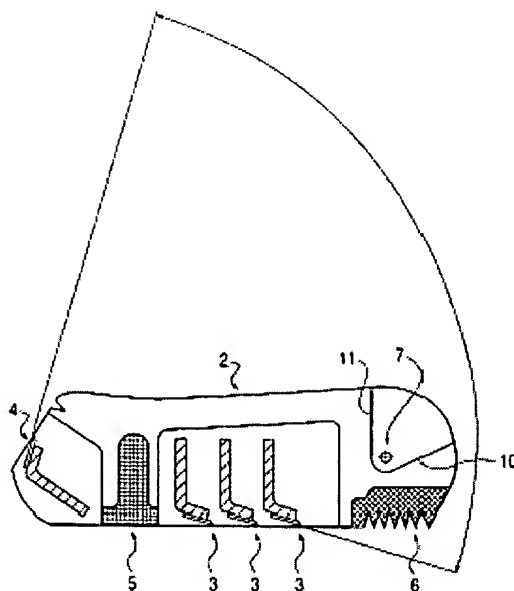
Applicant has amended claim 21 to include the recitation from claim 29 that the first and second working planes intersect at an angle between 75° and 135°. Claims 28 and 29 have been canceled. The Examiner has asserted that Rozenkranc discloses this feature; Applicant respectfully submits that Rozenkranc does not.

The Examiner asserts that Column 1, lines 59-63 disclose the claimed feature, but this text, reproduced below, describes the angle between the blades – not between the working planes as recited in claim 21:

The trim blade is located at an adequate angle enabling a good trim, similar to the angle at which the shaving blades are located when the shaving is performed. The angle between the shaving blades and the trim blade is suitably 60–120°, advantageously 85–95°.

This angle is further illustrated in Figure 1 of Rozenkranc:

FIG. 1



The angle discussed by Rozenkranc is clearly the angle between the blades.

In contrast, claim 21 recites the preferred angle between the working planes. This feature is described, for example, in paragraphs 13, 48, 49, 69 and 70 of the application (as filed, these correspond to paragraphs 15, 84, 85, 105 and 106 as published), and can perhaps best be viewed by reference to Figure 4 of the application reproduced below in which element 30 is the first working plane and element 50 is the second working plane:

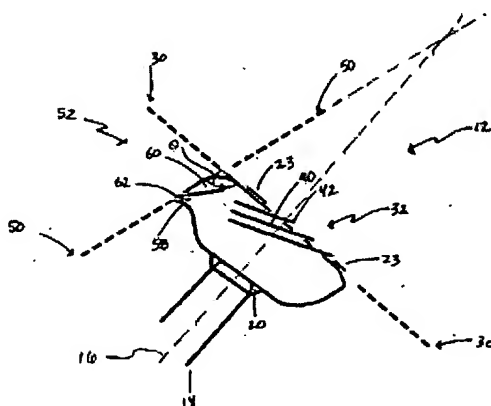
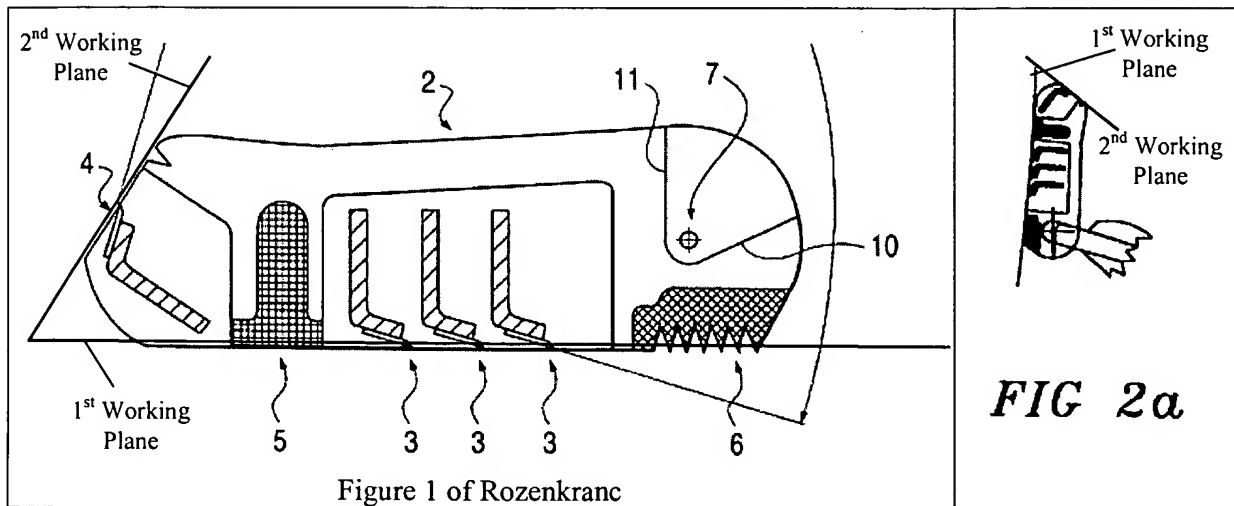


FIG. 4

As explained in the application in paragraph 70, the recited geometry results a razor that is more comfortable to use for both broad area shaving and trimming when the handle is rotated 180 degrees.

Turning again to Rozenkranc, applicant reproduce below Figures 1 and 2A from the Rozenkranc patent and highlight the first and second working planes in the Rozenkranc Figures:



A review of these Figures shows that the angle between the first and second working planes in Rozenkranc is well outside the recited range of between about 75 and 135 degrees. In fact, Applicant's measurement of this angle in Rozenkranc shows that it is less than 60 degrees (approximately 58 degrees). Further, Rozenkranc suggests no variation in the angle between the working planes and never recognizes its importance. Applicant's claimed geometry allows for more comfortable use of the claimed razor than does the geometry disclosed by Rozenkranc. In fact, it appears that Rozenkranc must allow his razor to rotate through large angles with respect to the handle (see, for example, the difference in angle between the razor and handle in Rozenkranc Figures 2 and 2A as compared to Rozenkranc Figures 3 and 3A; see also Rozenkranc Figure 4). Applicant has invented and claimed a better razor system that is not disclosed, taught or suggested by Rozenkranc. Accordingly, claim 21 is patentable over Rozenkranc.

Claim 30 – Concave Handle Curve

Claim 30, which depends ultimately from claim 21, recites that the handle is curved at its end attached to the razor with the curve being concave on the same side as the first blade group.

This claimed feature can be seen, for example, in Figures 1 and 2 of the application. The Examiner asserts that this feature is shown in Figure 2 of Rozenkranc. Applicant respectfully submits that Rozenkranc shows the opposite.

Figure 2 of Rozenkranc is reproduced below with an arrow provided to point to a curved portion of the Rozenkranc handle that is provided on the end attached to the razor:

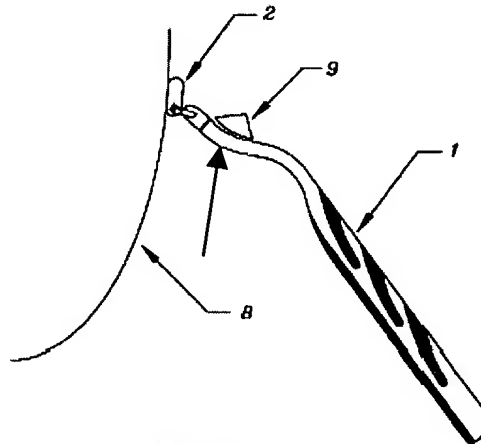
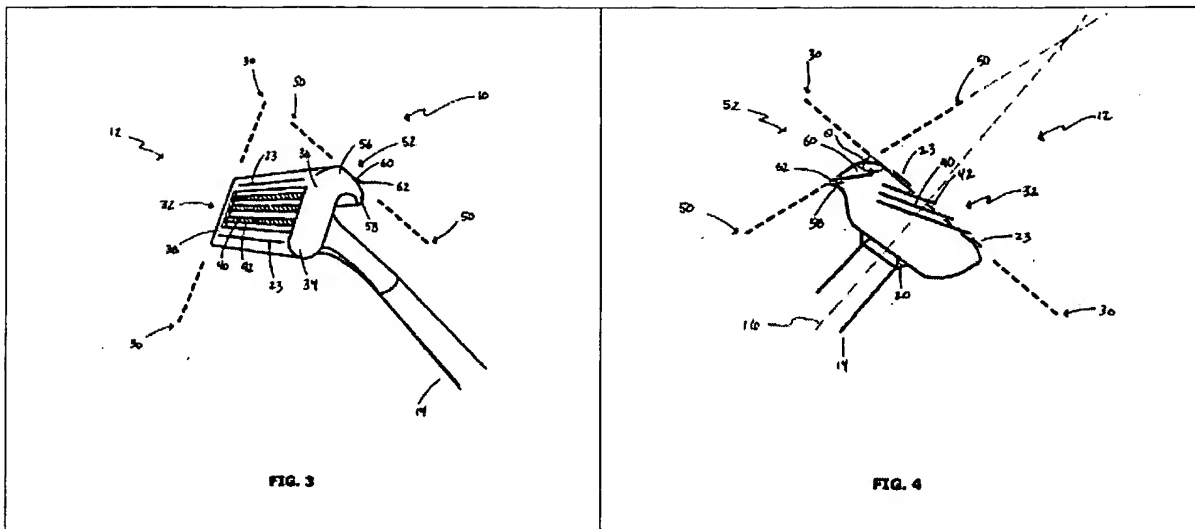


FIG 2

As is clearly shown in this Figure, the curve on the end of the handle attached to the razor is *convex* on the side of the first working plane – the opposite of what is recited in the claims. The curve is concave on the opposite side (shown by reference to element 9) – on the same side as the second working plane. Applicants geometry, especially when combined with the recitations of claim 21, provide improved comfort and ease of use over Rozenkranc for both broad area and trim shaving. Rozenkranc does not disclose, teach or suggest the features of claim 30, nor its combination with the features of claim 21, nor the advantages that these features provide. Accordingly, claim 30 is separately patentable over Rozenkranc for the reasons stated.

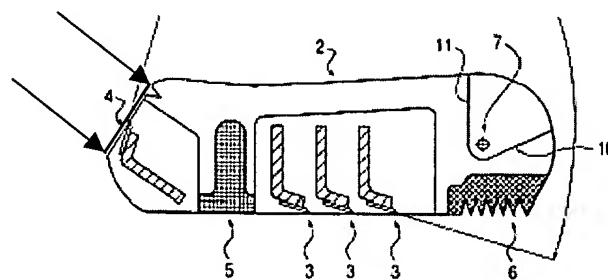
Claim 31 – Thin Blade Guard for Trim Blade

Claim 31 recites that the secondary blade group has a leading-edge blade guard having a thin profile to allow the distance between the cutting blade and the individual's skin to be optimally minimized to facilitate shaving in confined hard-to-reach areas of the face. This feature is described in the application, for example, at paragraphs 49 and 57 (as filed, these correspond to paragraphs 85 and 93 as published), as well as by element 58 in Figures 3 and 4:



As can be seen in these and other figures in the application, the leading edge blade guard for the second blade group has a thin profile so that the blade can be maneuvered readily into confined hard-to-reach areas.

In sharp contrast, Rozenkranc provides a broad second working plane and places the trimming blade on the back half of the plane, leaving more than one half of that broad plane to act as a guard, which will in turn prevent the use of that blade to trim in confined hard-to-reach areas. To illustrate this point, Applicant has modified Figure 1 of Rozenkranc below to provide a darkened line to indicate the second working plane, an arrows to indicate its leading and trailing edges:



The broad area from the trim blade 4 to the leading edge of the second working plane in Rozenkranc stands in sharp contrast to the thin profile guard 58 provided in Applicant's Figure 4 and other Figures in the application. Rozenkranc provides no disclosure, teaching or suggestion of a thin profile leading edge blade guard for the trim blade group as recited in Applicant's claim 31. This forms still another basis for the patentability of this claim over Rozenkranc.

Claims 37-40Claim 37:

In regards to claim 37, Rozenkranc discloses the same invention including a razor system providing both broad area shaving and trim shaving blade groups within a single cartridge (2), an elongate handle defining a handle axis (1), the razor cartridge disposed on the handle (Fig. 2) having a first blade group having a plurality of blades configured to provide a broad area shaving in a first working plane (3), the first working plane intersects the handle axis (Fig. 2), a second blade group having at least one razor blade configured to provide trim shaving in a second work plane (4), the second working plane intersects the handle axis (Fig. 2), the first and second working planes intersect each other so as to define a line of intersection that is substantially transverse to the handle axis (Fig. 2), the handle has a curve at an end attached to the razor cartridge (1), and the curve being concave on the same side as the first blade group (Fig. 2).

Claim 38:

In regards to claim 38, Rozenkranc discloses the first and second working planes are configured to allow conversion by a user from broad area shaving to trim shaving by rotating the handle 180° about the handle axis (Figs. 2a and 3a).

Claim 39:

In regards to claim 39, Rozenkranc discloses wherein at least a portion of the handle is symmetric to facilitate handling of the handle for either broad area shaving or trim shaving (Figs. 2 and 3).

Claim 40:

In regards to claim 40, Rozenkranc discloses the first and second working planes intersect at an angle between about 75° and 135° (Column 1 lines 59-63).

Claim 37 recites that the handle has a curve at the end of the handle attached to the razor, and that the curve is concave on the same side of the handle as the first blade group. Applicant has addressed this recitation above with respect to claim 30. Applicant submits that claim 37 is patentable over Rozenkranc for at least the same reasons provided above for claim 30.

Claim 40 depends from claim 37 and recites that the first and second working planes intersect at an angle between about 75 and 135 degrees. Applicant has addressed this recitation above with respect to claim 21. Applicant submits that this claim is separately patentable over Rozenkranc for at least the same reasons provided above for claim 21, as well as by virtue of its synergistic combination with the curved handle of claim 37.

Claims 41-45

Claim 41:

In regards to claim 41, Rozenkranc discloses the same invention including a razor system providing both broad area shaving and trim shaving blade groups within a single cartridge (2), an elongate handle defining a handle axis (1), the razor cartridge disposed on the handle (Fig. 2) having a first blade group having a plurality of blades configured to provide a broad area shaving in a first working plane (3), the first working plane intersects the handle axis (Fig. 2), a second blade group having at least one razor blade configured to provide trim shaving in a second work plane (4), the second working plane intersects the handle axis (Fig. 2), the first and second working planes intersect each other so as to define a line of intersection that is substantially transverse to the handle axis (Fig. 2), and the first and second working planes intersect at an angle between about 75° and 135° (Column 1 lines 59-63).

Claim 42:

In regards to claim 42, Rozenkranc discloses the first and second working planes are configured to allow conversion by a user from broad area shaving to trim shaving by rotating the handle 180° about the handle axis (Figs. 2a and 3a).

Claim 43:

In regards to claim 43, Rozenkranc discloses wherein at least a portion of the handle is symmetric to facilitate handling of the handle for either broad area shaving or trim shaving (Figs. 2 and 3).

Claim 44:

In regards to claim 44, Rozenkranc discloses the handle is elongated and has a curve at an end attached to the razor cartridge (1) and the curve being concave on the same side as the first blade group (Fig. 2).

Claim 45:

In regards to claim 45, Rozenkranc discloses the secondary blade group has a leading-edge blade guard having a thin profile to allow a distance between the cutting blade and the skin (Fig. 1, portion in front of leading edge of 4 with triangle notch).

Claim 41 recites that the first and second working planes intersect at an angle between about 75 and 135 degrees. Applicant has addressed this recitation above with respect to claim 21. Applicant submits that this claim is patentable over Rozenkranc for at least the same reasons provided above for claim 21.

Claim 44 depends ultimately from claim 41 and recites that the handle has a curve at the end of the handle attached to the razor, and that the curve is concave on the same side of the handle as the first blade group. Applicant has addressed this recitation above with respect to claim 30. Applicant submits that claim 44 is patentable over Rozenkranc for at least the same reasons provided above for claim 30, as well as by virtue of its synergistic combination with the angled intersection of the working claims of claim 41.

Claim 45 depends from claim 41 and recites that the second blade group includes a leading edge blade guard having a thin profile to allow the distance between the cutting blade and the individual's skin to be optimally minimized to facilitate shaving in confined hard-to-reach areas of the face. Applicant has addressed this recitation above with respect to claim 31. Applicant submits that claim 45 is patentable over Rozenkranc for at least the same reasons provided above for claim 31.

CONCLUSION

If the Examiner believes that an interview would facilitate the resolution of any outstanding issues, he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned.

Dated: October 24, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Ronald E. Cahill

Registration No.: 38,403

NUTTER MCCLENNEN & FISH LLP

World Trade Center West

155 Seaport Boulevard

Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2604

(617) 439-2000

(617) 310-9000 (Fax)

Attorney for Applicant

1535823.1

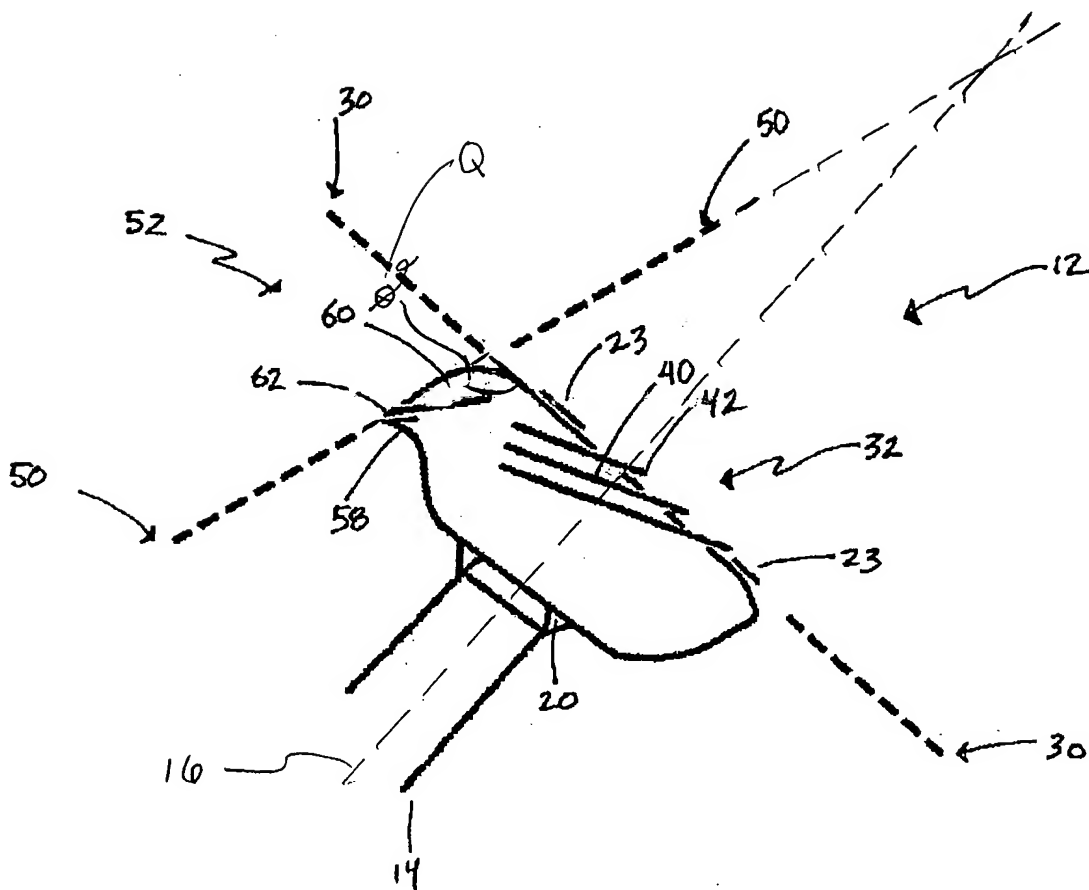


FIG. 4